



Tuesday, May 8: Late Monday afternoon we left Monreale and drove the last hour to the tiny village of Scopello on the north-western tip of Sicily. We set up for the next three nights at the Pensione Tranchina, and rose early on Tuesday to visit Erice and Segesta.

Erice is a medieval hill town in a spectacular setting. It sits on a mountain top 2500 feet above the sea and is dominated by the 11th century Castello di Venere, built atop an ancient temple of Venus.



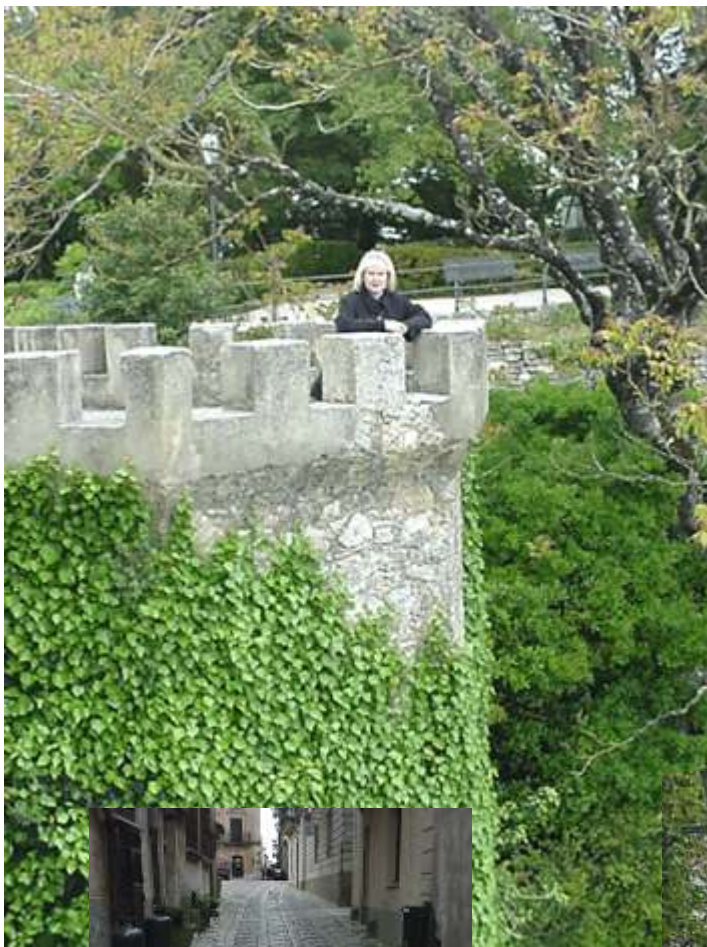




The castle was deserted when we arrived early in the morning. we were delighted with the abundant wildflowers that seemed to fill every nook and cranny and spent the morning exploring both the castle and the town.







After a fine lunch in town, we braved the incredibly narrow, winding road back down the mountain and drove about 15 miles to Segesta.







The greek temple at Segesta dates from 430 B.C. The setting is simply beautiful, and it was easy to spend the rest of the afternoon soaking it all in.





